

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/620,384

Examiner

Rakesh Kumar

Applicant(s)

ITOH ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment Filed 03/09/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 38-51.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/795,357.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claim 38 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not show or render obvious the combination set forth, including:

a catching plate for catching objects dropped through a clearance between the doorside inner wall of the hoistway and the upper cage sill, wherein the covers and the cages are connected such that, at the point of connection, the outer surfaces of the covers and the cages are in the same plane, the doorside cover, which covers the doorside of the space, has a first portion extending downwardly from an end of an upper cage sill along a doorside inner wall of the hoistway, a second portion extending from a lower end of the first portion and curving into said space, and a third portion extending from a lower end of the second portion to a doorside end of a ceiling of the lower cage, said catching plate is capable of swinging about a horizontal axis between a first position in which a distal end thereof contacts the doorside inner wall of the hoistway and a second position in which the distal end retracts from the doorside inner wall, and said catching plate is disposed to open and close an opening provided at the second portion of the doorside cover.

The claim 41 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not show or render obvious the combination set forth, including:

covers positioned so as to cover a space between the upper cage and the lower cage at a doorside, two lateral sides, and a backside of the space, wherein the covers and the cages are connected such that, at the point of connection, the outer surfaces of the covers and the cages are in the same plane, said upper cage and lower cage are supported on a cage frame by means of vibroisolating rubbers, and

at least one end of the covers for covering the space is connected to at least one of the upper cage and the lower cage by means of an elastic member for absorbing a distance change between the upper cage and the lower cage caused by elastic deformation of the vibroisolating rubbers.

The claim 42 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not show or render obvious the combination set forth, including:

covers positioned so as to cover a space between the upper cage and the lower cage at a doorside, two lateral sides, and a backside of the space, wherein the covers and the cages are connected such that, at the point of connection, the outer surfaces of the covers and the cages are in the same plane, and said covers are provided with a

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plurality of vertically extending protrusions on outer surfaces thereof for guiding a vertical airflow flowing along the outer surfaces thereof, respectively.

The claim 47 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not show or render obvious the combination set forth, including:

covers positioned so as to cover a space between the upper cage and the lower cage at a doorside, two lateral sides, and a backside of the space, wherein the covers and the cages are connected such that, at the point of connection, the outer surfaces of the covers and the cages are in the same plane, the doorside cover, which covers the doorside of the space, has a first portion extending downwardly from an end of an upper cage sill along a doorside inner wall of the hoistway, a second portion extending from a lower end of the first portion and curving into said space, and a third portion extending from a lower end of the second portion to a doorside end of a ceiling of the lower cage, and said covers are provided with a plurality of vertically extending protrusions on outer surfaces thereof for guiding a vertical airflow flowing along the outer surfaces thereof, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

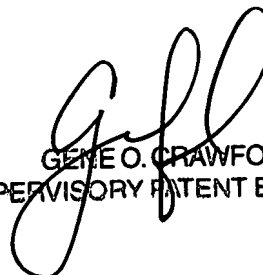
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rakesh Kumar whose telephone number is (517) 272-8314. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RK
March 28, 2007


GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER